

# NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

**April 28, 2006**

## **METHAMPHETAMINE INDICTMENT RETURNED**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 18, 2006, a Federal Grand Jury returned an indictment charging 4 individuals with conspiring to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute over 500 grams of methamphetamine in Gallatin and Saline Counties in Illinois, and elsewhere in the United States. Charged in the single count indictment are: **RYBURN K. O'BANNON**, age 45, of Harrisburg, Illinois; **SHIRLEY L. BLAIR**, age 45, of Galatia, Illinois; **LARRY D. TOLER**, age 55, also of Galatia; and **JERRY L. VINYARD**, age 53, also of Galatia. The indictment alleges the offense occurred between January 2000 and continued up to the date of the indictment.

*An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The charge carries a penalty of a minimum term of 10 years to a maximum of life imprisonment, up to a \$4 million fine, and a term of at least 5 years' supervised release to follow incarceration.

The indictment was unsealed after BLAIR, TOLER, and VINYARD were arrested on federal arrest warrants Thursday morning in a pre-dawn sweep. All three appeared in United States District Court in Benton today to be arraigned on the charges. All three were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending individual detention hearings which are set for Wednesday, May 3, 2006.

O'BANNON will be arraigned at a later date.

The investigation leading to the charges was led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the Multi-Agency Drug Enforcement Unit of the Saline County Sheriff's Department, the Galatia Police Department, the Shawneetown Police Department, the Gallatin County Sheriff's Department, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Saline County State's Attorney's Office, the White County State's Attorney's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James M. Cutchin.